



Commissioner's Column

Helping to Keep FMD Out of the US

by Jonathan L. Healy

We are concerned about the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the UK and Europe and are committed to keeping this devastating livestock disease out of Massachusetts and the United States.

FMD is a serious animal disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals but the disease presents no human health risk. Though people are not at risk of illness, people may carry the virus on their clothes or shoes, their luggage and in their nasal passages. The virus may also be present in food materials originating in FMD infected countries even if the food material has been prepared or processed.

The primary responsibility of keeping foreign animal diseases out of the US rests with the federal government through the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. These are the people with the beagle dogs at the international arrival terminal of the airport. It is the responsibility of every traveler returning from a FMD infected country to declare if he or she has been in contact with animals during his or her travels, or has brought back foods of plant or animal origin.

DFA staff have met with local APHIS staff to discuss the situation. We have pledged to cooperate with APHIS in the important work of keeping FMD out of the United States

Toward this end we have embarked on an information campaign to alert the general public and especially the agricultural community about the FMD situation and have increased our visits to farms, auctions, livestock dealers and other facilities where cloven-hoofed animals are kept.

USDA has established a toll-free number for questions about foot-and-mouth disease at 1-800-601-9327 and the USDA website (www.usda.gov) is an excellent source of information about FMD. We have also posted FMD information and links on our web site at www.massdfa.org.

Farm Biosecurity and Why It's Important

The recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom and Europe underscores the importance of maintaining a clean and secure environment for the raising of animals. What is biosecurity? The most common definition of biosecurity is "the practical steps taken to reduce the risk of spreading infectious and contagious disease." Once you become familiar with these methods they become a part of your everyday routine.

The first step toward creating a biosecure environment is to **identify disease spreading mechanisms** on your farm. Humans (hair, shoes and clothes), flies and other insects, wild birds, animals, dust, manure, farm machinery, water, air flow and rodents are all potential ways disease can spread from one place to another.

The next step is to **prevent the spread of disease**. This is more difficult and requires diligence on your part to be successful. By practicing the following guidelines you can help to prevent or control outbreaks that could cause severe economic hardships.

- ✓ When purchasing stock for your farm, know the source and only buy from tested or certified herds and flocks.
- ✓ Do not allow visitors to your farm to roam around unsupervised, they may unknowingly carry a disease onto the property and spread it by wandering around in areas where they should not be.
- ✓ Limit vehicle and foot traffic within the farm boundaries. People's shoes and clothes, manure, dust, and flies, can all carry diseases onto the farm and from building to building.
- ✓ If it is not possible to limit farm traffic, install foot dips at the entrances to each building (change disinfectant daily if there is heavy foot traffic in that area) and require vehicle wheel wells and tires to be sprayed with disinfectant at the gate before entering the premises.
- ✓ You may also need to require employees or visitors to wear coveralls and boots when entering and working in an animal area. It may be necessary to change boots and coveralls before entering another building.; this is dependent upon age, health status and type of animal on your farm. Each farm situation and setup is unique.
- ✓ If you must visit another, farm, livestock operation or animal auction, shower and change clothes before returning to your own animals.
- ✓ Do not borrow farm equipment from another farm.

- ✓ When working with animals, whenever possible always travel from the youngest group on the farm to the oldest. This eliminates spreading a disease from older animals to younger less disease-resistant ones.
- ✓ When cleaning and disinfecting equipment, rubber boots etc, remember disinfectants do not work when applied to organic matter. Always remove the dirt or manure first with soap and water, then disinfect the item.
- ✓ Maintain a good rodent control program. Cut high grass from around buildings to discourage rodents. Store feed in closed containers or bins.
- ✓ Store manure in an appropriate manner.
- ✓ Always wash hands after handling animals and equipment used for animals.

Farms that host groups and tours are advised to screen visitors who may come in contact with animals to determine if they have visited FMD affected countries in the previous seven days. You might want to have someone give a talk about FMD to visitors when they arrive, and post the USDA poster "Keep Foot-and-Mouth Disease Out of America." Copies of the poster are being sent to all farms listed in MDFA's agri-tourism directory. If you do not receive the mailing, call 617-626-1795. ▲

Water Quality Improvement Funding

Applications are now available for Fiscal Year 2002 funding for farmers who wish to install best management practices to protect water quality. MDFA's Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) is making \$200,000 available to producers in Massachusetts who farm five acres or more. Cranberry growers must have three acres under production. This is a reimbursement program for the purchase of materials only. A maximum award of \$20,000 per farm is available to eligible farmers.

To request an application call Susan Phinney, AEEP Coordinator, 617-626-1772. Applications are also available through the Lancaster and Amherst MDFA offices, Mass. Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Applications must be postmarked by May 14, 2001 and mailed to MDFA, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500., Boston, MA 02114, ATTN: Susan Phinney to be considered. Faxed copies are not acceptable.

Farmers' Market Opportunities

Adams, Wednesdays, Noon – 3:00 pm, Begins July 18. Seeking all types of vendors. Everett Randall, 413-743-3111.

Arlington, Wednesdays, 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm, Begins July 11. Seeking a small farm, specialty items. Oakes Plimpton, 781-899-2403.

Ayer, Saturdays, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Begins July 14. Seeking all types of growers. Ruth Rhonemus, 978-772-5890.

Barre, Saturdays, 9:30 am – 12:30 am, Begins May 12. Seeking vegetable growers. Julie Rawson, 978-355-2853.

Cambridge/Charles Square, Sundays, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Begins June 3. Seeking honey, vegetables, fruit. Tim Garboski, 508-883-3397.

Charlestown/Boston, Wednesdays, 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Begins July 18. Seeking all types of vendors. Colleen Justice, 617-241-8866.

Gardner, Thursdays, 9:00 am – Noon, Seeking jam, baked goods sweet corn, Nadine Smith, 978-345-2661.

Greenfield, Saturdays, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm, Begins April 28. Seeking honey, eggs, cut flowers, baked goods. Peg Pucino, 413-773-8577.

Haverhill, Saturdays, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm, Begins July 14. Seeking vegetables, fruit, honey.

Linda Parsons, 978-374-1709.

Hingham, Saturdays, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Begins May 26. Seeking produce – especially corn and apples, baked goods. Alix White, 781-383-1829.

Holden/Tuesday Evening Market, Tuesdays, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Begins May 8. Seeking bakers, crafters, potatoes. Jacqui Marsh, 978-874-0244.

Mansfield, Thursdays, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Begins July 12. Seeking fruit, flowers, herbs. Beth Flint, 508-339-7155.

Marblehead, Saturdays, 9:00 am – Noon, Begins Mid – June, Seeking dairy products, fish, organic produce. Don Morgan, 781-631-1243.

Massachusetts Turnpike – Various locations beginning in May, including Lee, Charlton East and Westbound and Natick. Donna Hill at 781-431-5097.

Marlboro, Thursdays, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm and Saturdays, 9:00 am – Noon, Seeking fruit, flowers crafts. Gaston Gauthier, 508-393-6350.

Melrose, Thursdays, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Begins June 21. Seeking small vegetable or organic farm. Sally Frank at 781-324-9648.

Middleboro, Saturdays, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm,

Begins June 23. Seeking vegetables, baked goods, plants, honey. Donna Blischke, 508-866-9762.

Mission Hill/Boston, Thursdays, Noon – 6:00 pm. Begins Mid-July. Seeking fruit, flowers, baked goods. Milagros Arbaje, 617-445-6000 or Maggie Cohen 617-427-7399.

Newton, Tuesdays, 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm, Begins July 10. Seeking eggs, milk. Judy Dore, 617-552-7120.

North Adams, Saturdays, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm, Seeking produce. Rod Bunt, 413-663-3735.

Orleans, Saturdays, 8:00 am – Noon, Begins May 19. Seeking produce, vegetable plants, shellfish. Gretel Norgaot, 508-255-8374.

Quincy, Fridays, 11:30 am – 5:00 pm, Seeking fruit grower, baker. Harry Johnson, 617-479-1601.

Shrewsbury, Tuesdays, 11:00 am – 3:30 pm, Begins June 12. Seeking 1 fruit grower, 1 baker, 1 auxiliary vendor. Andrew O'Keefe, 508-753-7761.

South End/Boston, Wednesdays, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Seeking specialty items such as eggs. Lanae Handy, 617-437-0999.

Springfield Cooperative, Saturdays, 7:00 am – 11:00 am, Begins April 28. Seeking baked goods for entire season,

certified organic produce and assorted fruits and vegetables from June through October. Al Fini, 413-786-1012.

Springfield/Farmers' Market at the X, Tuesdays, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Begins May 1. Seeking honey, lamb and turkey products. Belle Rita Novak, 413-737-1724.

Sturbridge, Thursdays, 11:00 am – 3:30 pm, Begins June 14. Seeking 1 fruit grower, 2 auxiliary vendors. Andrew O'Keefe, 508-753-7761.

Topsfield, Saturdays, 8:00 am – Noon, Begins July 7. Seeking fruit and vegetables. Jane Cook, 978-922-1648.

Turners Falls, Wednesdays, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Begins May 1. Seeking produce, flowers, baked goods. David Detmold, 413-863-4772.

Waltham, Saturdays, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm, Begins June 16. Seeking maple syrup, turkey products, flowers, honey, organic produce, baked goods and preserves. Jennifer Rose at 781-893-0361.

Williamstown, Saturdays, 8:00 am – Noon, Begins May 26. Seeking produce. Anne Guzzi, 413-458-3365.

Worcester/Eastside, Mondays, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm, Begins June 11. Seeking 2 auxiliary vendors, such as baked goods, honey, maple products.

Farm-City Connections

"Growing Minds through School Gardens"

UMass Extension and the UMass School of Education will sponsor a pair of panel presentations on this topic Friday afternoon, April 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the UMass School of Education. The panels will look at some examples of how gardens have been used to improve K-12 teaching and learning in Massachusetts schools, and will explore ways that UMass research and teaching resources might be helpful in the professional development of gardening educators.

Contact Will Snyder at 413-545-3876 or wsnyder@umext.umass.edu

Volunteers, Assistance Needed for Hands-on Garden Projects!

To help outreach to educators looking to introduce basic growing techniques during and after school hours, you may be just the person to lend a hand! While we do have some excellent printed material from the National Gardening Association and a limited source of seed material, your involvement could mean a lot to schools in your area!

Your personal visit to a classroom with the planting resources in hand would be the best gift of all to a busy teacher shy on horticultural expertise.

No matter what your age, if you have basic planting and growing skills, we can help you find a school or group in your community. This could be a great hobby for a retiree. Remember that students who learn about growing will most likely learn to appreciate agriculture.

Contact Janet Christensen at 617-626-1735 or jchristensen@state.ma.us, and thanks!

MAC Offers Ag Education Kit

Several excellent resources are being offered for a special reduced price:

- "What's up Mac?", a 14-minute video tour of diverse Massachusetts farms with 10 lesson plans,
- "It's Your World" curriculum with twenty lesson activities on food & agriculture, including a lesson on school gardening
- Collection of newsletter feature articles on ten major local commodities
- Resource Directory of ag educational materials
- Ag in the Classroom mini-grant guidelines, brochure, poster and current newsletter

All this is currently offered for \$40. Items can be purchased separately, but the savings on the kit is substantial. It's the perfect packet to offer to a teacher or principal in your area as a way of promoting education about agriculture in our school systems. For more info, phone Debi Hogan at 508-336-4426 or email dchogan@sprynet.com. ▲

Market Managers Seminar

Massachusetts farmers' market managers are invited to attend a seminar on May 5th, 9:00 am to 4:15 pm at the UMass. Waltham Center. Topics to be discussed include market promotions, data collection and public health issues. Certification for the Farmers' Market Coupon Program will also be provided. The training is free for all Massachusetts farmers' market managers and lunch will be provided. For more information contact David Webber at 617-626-1754, David.Webber@state.ma.us. ▲

Fruit and Vegetable Growers:

This month you should receive a Pick-Your-Own (PYO) survey and/or a whole-sale survey asking you to update your farm information regarding what you grow, and how you market your products. The information is used to update the 2001 Mass. PYO Farm Guide, and the 8th edition Green Book directory of wholesale growers. If you haven't received either and would like to be included, call Rick LeBlanc at 508-792-7711 x17, or 617-626-1759 or e-mail Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us. ▲

Hilltown Business Training

Hilltown Community Development Corp. invites businesses to a series of four Wednesday evening financial workshops starting on May 16 in Chesterfield. Computer training will also be offered at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School in Ashfield starting at the end of April and continuing through May. The computer classes will cover Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and using the Internet. Scholarships are available and pre-registration is required for all workshops. Contact Marge Pringle at 413-296-4536 or margep@hilltowncdc.org. ▲

MASS. AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING PROGRAM

Through the State Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance (SOMWBA) minority and women business enterprises can become certified to do business in public markets. This is a marketing tool that may help when seeking government contracts. For more information contact SOMWBA at 617-973-8692, www.state.ma.us/somwba. Or contact Alisha Bouchard at MDFA

Regional "Buy Local" Campaigns Continue

Commissioner Jonathan L. Healy has announced \$150,000 in state funding for five regional marketing campaigns promoting locally grown farm products. The campaigns will be coordinated by non-profit groups in the five areas in cooperation with MDFA. Funding levels were determined by the scope of the proposed projects and the amount requested.

★The Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP) has been awarded \$40,000 to continue a campaign in the South Coast area of Bristol and Plymouth counties started last year. The area includes New Bedford and Fall River.

★The Berkshire Regional Food and Land Council was awarded \$37,000 to expand their "Berkshire Grown" campaign.

★Western Massachusetts-based Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) will receive \$30,000 to continue their successful "Be a Local Hero" campaign in the Pioneer Valley.

★Worcester County farmers and other members of the area's agricultural community came together last year to launch a marketing campaign. The group was awarded \$25,000 this year to continue the effort.

★A new campaign will be launched this summer in Northeastern Mass. Some \$18,000 has been awarded to the Essex County Conservation District to spearhead the new campaign.

The funding is part of MDFA's overall efforts to increase public awareness of Massachusetts agriculture. The purpose of the campaigns will be to increase income for local family farmers and to highlight the importance of farms in the community. ▲

Gloucester Community Garden Seeks Volunteers

Lorrina Brown, organizer of Project CARE is looking for volunteers to work on this year's garden project. The land that is used for Project CARE was donated in trust for Project CARE by Gloucester Historical Society. The land is located off Poplar St, behind the White Ellery House in Gloucester.

Thus far the following items have been donated: Garden hoses and tilling the soil by the City of Gloucester. There is still urgent need for volunteers to help plant, to bring spades and rakes, and a donation of manure. Please contact Lorrina Brown at 978-828-3160 for more information on how you can volunteer.

Value-Added Market Development Grants

USDA Rural Development has announced the introduction of its Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants. There is \$20 million available nationwide for this program.

The program is designed to encourage independent producers of agricultural commodities to refine these products thereby increasing their value. These grants will open and expand markets for value-added farm products.

Grants can be used to conduct feasibility analyses, develop business plans, develop marketing plans, or conduct other types of studies to help establish a viable value-added business venture. Grants can also be used to establish working capital accounts. Feasibility studies, business plans, and possibly, other studies will be required before grant funds can be used as working capital.

For more information and application materials, contact Richard Burke at the USDA Rural Development State Office in Amherst, Massachusetts at 413-253-4302 or log on to www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/proposal.htm. Application deadline is April 23, 2001. If all funds are not used by this deadline there will be a second round of applications due June 27, 2001. ▲

Livestock Marketing Project Funded

The commissioners of agriculture of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Vermont have announced a \$55,000 regional marketing grant to develop innovative marketing approaches for small farm livestock producers in the Northeast.

The grant was provided by the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program administered by USDA's Ag. Marketing Service.

The Cooperative Development Institute of Greenfield, Mass. has been identified as the lead organization to work with the departments of agriculture and livestock producers to implement this marketing initiative. CDI has been working with a group of livestock producers in western Mass. since July 1999 and has expanded to include farmers in Connecticut, Vermont and New York.

For more information, contact Mary Jordan, MDFA, 251 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114, 617-626-1750, Mary.Moffitt@state.ma.us. ▲

CLASSIFIED

'80 Ford F-250 Extended Cab PU, 4x4. 18,000 mi on new engine. Full 8' bed with cap. New large A/T tires, radiator, water pump, ball joints, gas tank. Strong payload and towing capability. Truck runs great. Body generally in good shape but has rust at wheel wells. This truck has a lot of life left in it - very dependable. \$2,200/bo. Call Van, Petersham, MA, 978-724-3573, viduros@earthlink.net.

Subscribe to the New England Farm Bulletin. \$17/year includes 2 free farm classifieds or \$17 in free information booklets, monthly publication, annual almanac, New England fairs and farmers' market directory, monthly farm classifieds and features, access to rare farm topics and more! NEFB, Dept MA, PO Box 67, Taunton, MA 02780.

Farmer/educator: Certified 25 acre organic farm is seeking a full-time year round farmer/educator. Qualifications: 2 to 4 year degree in the field and/or equivalent experience in agriculture, with carpentry and mechanic skills, who loves teaching and working with people. Computer skills a plus. Send resume and cover letter to NCOF, Lynda Simkins, 117 Eliot St., Natick, MA 01760, ncorganic@aol.com.

For sale: corn silage and hay. 5 HP milk pump. 413-863-4640.

2 silos - concrete 20'x50' and 30'x60'. Unloaders inside. Also John Deere 7200 corn planter and high lift corn blower. Wagner Farms, 413-253-5194, leave msg.

For sale: 2 steel frame greenhouses, one 100'x30', 3 yrs old; one 100'x21', 7 yrs old. Both comp., heaters, fans & vents. Plus farm equip., tractors, harrow, seeder, etc. Sudbury, 978-443-6667.

The Cohasset Farmers' Market is looking for organic growers. Market runs every Thursday, 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm, June 8th through October 18th. Patti Keville (781) 383-1200, pkeville@mediaone.net.

Honey for sale wholesale: 60# pails or already bottled and ready for retail in various sizes. Makes a great addition to any farm stand! Also looking for used trailers, a small dump truck, a tractor with a loader, or any composting equipment. Spensley Rickert 413-247-0237 or email chricket@aol.com.

For sale: corn silage. North Attleboro, 508-699-2153.

Bee Equipment: 300 10-frame 9 5/8" boxes w/9 comb \$10 each. 100 10-frame 6 5/8" boxes w/ 9 comb \$7 each. Call 508-763-9584, rberndt@tmlp.com.

Massachusetts grown quality fresh meat ,beef, pork, lamb, veal, goat and roaster pigs is now available from USDA inspected facility at Stafford Enterprises Inc. 30 Furnace Hollow Rd. Stafford, CT 06076, 860-684-0222 Fax 860-684-9403.

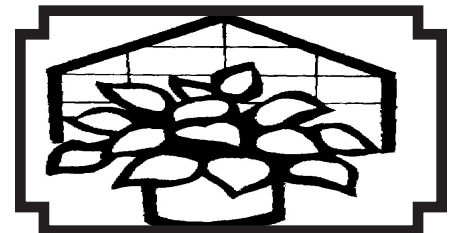
How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of charge on a first-come basis. Limit: 25 words. Be sure to include a phone number. No display ads will be accepted. Only one ad per business/individual per issue, unless space permits. Ads may run in consecutive issues, space permitting.

Ads must be of interest to Massachusetts farmers. The Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture reserves the right to refuse any listing it deems inappropriate for publication.

Send typewritten or neatly printed copy to:

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251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1752 fax: 617-626-1850
e-mail: Diane.Baedecker@state.ma.us



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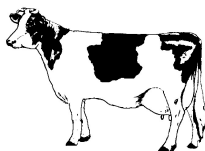
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This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.

Wanted: Mass. Dairy Farm Photos

If you would like to have a picture of your farm displayed at the Big E in the Dairy Booth in the Mass. Building, please send a clear picture, suitable for being enlarged. Enclose the name and location of the farm. Picture must be postmarked by June 1st. Any pictures received after June 1st will be used in 2002. Please send pictures to: Liz Avery, 198 Jacksonville Rd., Colrain, MA 01340, 413-624-8822. ▲



calendar 2001

May 5 - Farmers' Market Manager Seminar, 9:00 am to 4:15 pm at the UMass Waltham Center. Topics include promotion, data collection and public health issues. Free for all Mass. farmers' market managers, lunch provided. Sponsored by MDFA. Contact David Webber, 617-626-1754, David.Webber@state.ma.us.

May 7 - Club Managers Mini-Trade Show at the Lanam Club, Andover. Local growers and specialty food producers invited to exhibit. Sponsored by the New England Club Managers Assoc. Contact Soren Christensen at 978-475-5210.

May 26 & 27 - Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair at Cummington Fairgrounds. For information on participating or attending, contact Becky Peterson, Orchard Valley Farm, 413-624-5562 or visit www.masheepwool.org.

June 2 - Annual Swine Information Day and Auction, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Deerfield, NH fairgrounds. Free admission. Mini-trade show, 4H food concession. Auction at 1:00 pm. Sponsored by the New Hampshire Pork Producers Council. Call 603-768-5545 for more information.

June 5-7 - Scooper Bowl, Boston City Hall Plaza, to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund. Visit www.jimmyfund.org for details.

July 13-14 - New England Sheep Show and Sale, Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) fairgrounds, West Springfield, Mass. Sponsored by the New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association. Contact Becky Peterson, 413-624-5562, orvalbc@shaysnet.com.

August 24-25 - Massachusetts Marketplace Festival at Elm Bank Reservation, Dover. Sponsored by MDFA and the Mass. Horticultural Society. Contact Mary Jordan, MDFA, 617-626-1750, Mary.Moffitt@state.ma.us.

Century Farm Project Wins Northeast Award

The Massachusetts Century Farms 2000 project was selected as the "Best One-time Project" by the Northeast Farm Communicators Association in their annual Nor'Easter contest. Diane Baedeker Petit, communications coordinator for MDFA and an NEFC member, submitted samples of news releases, the commemorative booklet, a certificate, news clips and other materials from the project which honored farms operated by the same family for 100 years or more.

The contest recognizes the best in writing, photography and broadcasting media covering Northeast agriculture. The contest was judged by the Journalism Department of Utica College. Certificates of excellence were presented at the the NEFC spring meeting in Meriden, Conn.

The Northeast Farm Communicators is an organization of professional reporters, writers, editors, broadcasters, public relations specialists and other agricultural communicators throughout New England and the Northeast.

Among other activities, the organization publishes the NEFC Service Directory, a guide to agricultural information in the Northeast. The 70-page booklet lists NEFC members and 600 contacts in the agriculture industry, government and related organizations. The cost is \$3. For a copy or for more information on NEFC, contact Chris Kimball-Peterson, 6020 Searsburg Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886, (607) 387-4990, or e-mail CLKP329@aol.com. ▲

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